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IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CPSU AND THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS USSR: MEASURES FOR THE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF
MEDICAL SERVICE AND HEALTH PROTECTION OF THE POPULATION
OF THE USSR

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MINISTERS USSR: MEASURES FOR THE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF
MEDICAL SERVICE AND HEALTH PROTECTION OF THE POPULATION
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Following is a translation of an unsigned
article in Sovetskaya Meditsina (Soviet Medicine),
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The Central Committee Task of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR passed a resolution on "Measures for the Further Improvement of Medical Service and Health Protection of the Population of the USSR." The resolution states that as a result of the steady rise in the material and cultural level of the life of the people, the creation of a network of medical institutions ensuring the population with free skilled medical service, the successful development of medical science and wide expansion of physical culture, a strengthening of the health of the population of the USSR has been achieved. During the years of Soviet power the morbidity among the population decreased markedly, the total mortality rate decreased more than fourfold, and the child mortality -- almost sevenfold. The average life-span of the Soviet citizen increased more than twofold. Such dangerous infectious diseases as cholera, plague, smallpox, and parasitary typhus -- which had caused great suffering to our people -- have been eliminated. At the present time malaria morbidity has been almost completely eliminated, and the diphtheria morbidity has decreased drastically.

The number of hospital beds during the post-war years increased twofold. In conjunction with State construction, there has taken place an extensive development of construction of medical institutions at the initiative and expense of kolkhozes.

A considerable number of sanatoria and rest homes, where over five million people rest and obtain treatment annually, have been constructed and put into operation. The quality of the therapeutic and prophylactic service to the population has improved. Appropriations for public health and development of medical science are increasing

annually.

A large number of higher and secondary medical teaching institutions, which turn out skilled cadres of medical workers, have opened. There are about 380,000 physicians and 1,300,000 fel'dshers [male medical assistants] midwives, pharmacists, and nurses in the country. Our country reached the leading position in the world in regard to the supply of physicians.

A large network of scientific-research medical institutes and a leading center of medical science -- the Academy of Medical Science USSR -- have been created. Over 30,000 scientific workers are engaged in 273 scientific-research establishments and 79 higher medical educational institutions of the country.

The medical industry of the Soviet Union has a number of achievements to its credit. The manufacture of medicinal preparations and articles of medical technique increased more than threefold during the previous Seven-Year Plan.

At the same time the TsK of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR pointed out that despite present achievements in the field of public health, medical service is still unable to satisfy the growing demands of the population, mainly in the areas of new industrial construction, fallow lands, the Far North, and in the mountainous regions. The workers are insufficiently ensured with ambulatory-poly-clinical -- particularly dental and dental-prosthetic -- aid. There are serious shortcomings in the organization of hospital service to the population, especially in hospitals with a small number of beds, where skilled treatment of patients is inadequate. Many therapeutic institutions are insufficiently equipped with modern medical apparatus and special equipment.

Construction of new medical buildings proceeds slowly. In some republics the construction plan of therapeutic-prophylactic establishments has not been fulfilled. In a number of union republics no proper attention is being given to the construction and reconstruction of medical industry enterprises and to the prompt putting into operation of new production capacities.

The Acad. Med. Sci. USSR, and the scientific-research and medical institutes of the Ministry of Health and ministries of health of union republics do not sufficiently carry out scientific research directed toward the study of causes and the search for new effective means of prevention and treatment of mass diseases -- influenza, tonsillitis, infectious diseases of children, cancer, cardiovascular and other diseases. In a number of in-

stances the newest achievements in biology, physics, chemistry, and radiology are being inculcated too slowly in the work-practice of medical institutions. There is insufficient utilization of the achievements of modern science for the manufacture of new medicinal preparations and articles of medical technique and their introduction into wide medical practice.

Certain Party, Soviet, and trade-union organs devote little attention to the problems of medical service to the population, construction of therapeutic establishments and the organization of mass movement of the population toward sanitary education, and they exert poor control of the implementation by the economic organizations of measures of sanitary improvement of populated places, and industrial enterprises. In a number of cities, workers' settlements, and villages the water supply, canalization, and the cleaning of streets, squares and courtyards are poorly organized.

The TsK and the Council of Ministers USSR requested that all Party, Soviet and trade-union organizations concentrate their attention on the further development of public health throughout the nation, and they outlined a number of measures directed toward the improvement of medical service to the population, acceleration of the rate and improvement of the quality of construction of therapeutic-prophylactic establishments and enterprises of the medical industry, increase of the manufacture of drugs and medical articles, enhancement of the role of scientific-research institutes and chairs of medical VUZ in the search for new effective means and methods of combatting morbidity, and further improvement of the sanitary condition of the populated centers.

The TsK Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR worked out quotas for the union republics, ministries and departments of the USSR on the increase of hospital beds from 1,532.6 thousand in 1958 to 2,148.6 thousand in 1965, including 336.2 thousand beds by putting into operation hospitals with polyclinics, dispensaries, and lying-in hospitals, whose construction is carried out according to the plans of government funds, as well as 279.8 thousand beds through the organization of medical establishments in buildings allotted by local Soviet, economic, cooperative, and public organizations and kolkhozes.

The councils of ministries of the union republics and ministries and departments of the USSR were instructed to approve, on the basis of quotas established by the present decree, plans of construction and putting into operation

of medical institutions in 1960 - 1965.

The TsK of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR instructed the TsK of the Communist Parties, The Councils of Ministers of the union republics, and the regional Ispolkoms to work out and effect measures on ensuring the fulfilment of the quotas established by the present decree regarding the increase of the network of medical institutions as well as providing skilled medical service and increasing the cultural level of medical service to the population with a view:

- to direct capital expenditures, set aside for the development of public health, mainly to the construction of hospitals, polyclinics, and lying-in hospitals so as to improve, first of all, the hospitalization of tuberculosis and psychiatric patients, as well as parturients and small children;

- to considerably expand the capacity of the polyclinics in the cities by means of the development of a network of polyclinical departments in the hospitals as well as polyclinics and health centers in large industrial enterprises, and to improve the quality of polyclinical service to the population;

- to equip the therapeutic-prophylactic institutions with modern medical equipment, apparatus, and instruments by enlarging the diagnostic laboratories, X-ray, physiotherapeutic, procedural, and other department, especially in the polyclinics;

- to considerably expand the network of pharmacies and improve the supply of the population with drugs and articles of sanitation and hygiene;

- to improve the supply of therapeutic-prophylactic institutions and first - and emergency - aid stations with needed sanitary and freight transport;

- to direct the funds, set apart for the construction of hospitals, polyclinics, and lying-in hospitals, for the enlargement of existing hospital institutions in the first place, as well for the construction of preferably large hospitals in the cities as well as in rural communities;

- to create in the cities and industrial centers preferably 300 to 400-bed hospitals, in large cities -- 600 beds or more, as the most economical in construction and maintenance for the purpose of providing diverse skilled medical service to the population;

- to effect the enlargement of rural regional hospitals by increasing the number of beds to 100 or 200 and more, equipping them with modern medical apparatus and staffing them with physicians in all basic specialties; therapy, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, stomato-

logy, etc., as well as ensuring the strengthening of the sanitary-epidemiological department of these hospitals.

The TsK of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR approved the initiative of the leading kolkhozes which carry out the construction of medical institutions at their own expense, and suggested that these kolkhozes use the funds they had set aside for the improvement of public health, in the first place for the expansion and construction of rural regional and interkolkhoz (district) hospitals and pharmacies, as well as fel'dsher-midwife centers (kolkhoz maternity homes). The TsK of the Communist Parties, Councils of Ministers of the republics, the regional district committees of the Party, and the district (regional) Ispolkoms were instructed to encourage by all possible means the initiative of the kolkhozes in the construction at their expense of buildings for health institutions and to render aid to kolkhozes in ensuring materials and equipment for construction. The construction of kolkhoz and interkolkhoz health institutions must be carried out, as a rule, according to type projects by the interkolkhoz building organizations or -- with the consent of the kolkhozes -- by the building organizations of the local Soviets of Workers' Deputies. The Gosplan USSR jointly with the Councils of Ministries of the union republics and Centrosoyuz were instructed to institute measures for the improvement of the material and technical implementation of said construction.

The TsK of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR instructed the TsK of Communist Parties and Councils of Ministers of the union republics, the local Party and Soviet organs, and the economic and trade-union organizations to plan and carry out measures in 1960 for the improvement of the therapeutic-prophylactic service to women and school children, improvement of working conditions of women, and considerable expansion of the network of consultations for women and children, pre-school children institutions, and rest rooms for women at the enterprises. Permission was granted to issue free of charge milk mixtures from dairy kitchens to children less than a year old who are on an early additional diet and on artificial nutrition, who come from families with many children and are in poor economic circumstances.

The Gosplan USSR was instructed, jointly with the Ministry of Health USSR and Councils of Ministers of union republics, to prepare in 1960 and submit to the Council of Ministers USSR suggestions on the development of production and expansion of the variety of products of nutrition for small children, as well as on the improvement of commerce

in these products.

The Ministry of Health USSR was instructed to develop and, jointly with the Gosplan USSR, to approve the norms of providing medical institutions with automotive transport facilities, and the Gosplan USSR - to make provision in the national economy plans for the task of manufacturing sanitation cars.

The Councils of Ministers of the union republics must, jointly with the Ministry of Health USSR, develop in 1960 and, in accordance with the law of strengthening the bond between school and life and further development of the system of public education in the USSR, carry out measures to expand the training of physicians-stomatologists and fully meet the requirements of the population in dental care and dental prosthetics. The Ministry of Health USSR is instructed to revise and approve in the established order the programs and educational plans of training sanitary physicians, to ensure their more thorough familiarization with the sanitary-hygienic problems connected with the extensive inculcation of the new techniques and technology into all branches of national economy.

The TsK of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR instructed local Party and Soviet organs to carry out measures for a considerable improvement in the working and life conditions of medical workers, particularly in the rural localities, and to ensure them living quarters promptly. To further enhance the theoretical and practical training of physicians, the TsK of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR instructed the Ministry of Health USSR and the TsK of the trade union of medical workers to develop and ratify the clause of certification of physicians; to carry out measures on considerable expansion and improvement of the system of advanced training of medical cadres, and on the creation of conditions of raising their skill without taking them away from work; to work out and implement measures directed toward the improvement of the organization of physicians' work, with the view of freeing them from carrying out functions unfamiliar to them (filling out nonratified account forms, etc.)

The TsK of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR approved extensive measures for the development of the manufacture of medical articles, expansion of scientific-research works to seek and manufacture new medicinal products, medical instruments, apparatus and hospital equipment, the improvement of planning and material-technical supply, acceleration of construction of new and reconstruction of existing enterprises of the medical industry, as well as the development of a network of pharmacies and improvement in

supplying the population with drugs, thermometers, gas and cotton. The volume of manufacture of drugs, articles of medical technique, and other medical devices will have increased 3.5 - fold by 1965 as compared with the year 1958; the union republics and the Ministry of Health USSR were given their assignment for 1960-1965 in regard to the output of the above-mentioned articles.

The Councils of Ministers of the union republics were asked to approve, on the basis of assignments outlined in the present decree, the plan of output of medical technical material and other medical articles for 1960-1965, with special attention on the need of a considerable increase in the output of ready-made prefabricated medicinal containers, and preparations divided in doses and packed so as to reduce thereby the preparation of medicinal units in the pharmacies.

The decree foresees an increase in the volume of manufactured penicillin as 4.8-fold, streptomycin -- 5.5-fold, levomycetin -- sevenfold and antibiotics of tetracycline order -- 13-fold. An organization of the manufacture of new highly effective antibiotics (colimycin, mycerin, etc.), vitamins, and hormonal products is planned. The manufacture of the adrenocorticotrophic hormone will increase 5.7-fold, analgin -- threefold, caffeine -- sevenfold, novocaine -- 3.3-fold, sulfodimesine -- 5.6-fold.

There is an expansion of production foreseen for the purpose of equipping the medical institutions, together with the mastering of new articles of medical technique with the utilization of radioelectronics and nuclear physics, increase of the manufacture of instruments and apparatus, including: phonoecardiographs 13-fold, X-ray diagnostic apparatus with an alectroptic transformer ninefold, and gamma-apparatus six-fold. The decree foresees the expansion of manufacture of perfected surgical instruments for operating on the heart, lungs, stomach and other organs, as well as an increase in the output of eyeglasses.

The volume of capital outlays for the development of medical industry during current seven years is four times as large as compared with the previous seven-year period. The aforementioned capital outlays are directed toward new plant construction and reconstruction of existing enterprises. The decree also foresees the specialization of enterprises and shops in the output of articles needed for public health.

The TsK of CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR instructed the Councils of Ministers of the union republics to open 6,500 new pharmacies in 1960-65, and in the district and regional centers -- specialized stores for selling

medical equipment, instruments, optical dental supplies, as well as to expand the network of enterprises on the repair and installation of X-ray and other medical equipment.

The Gosplan USSR and Councils of Ministers of the union republics must outline in their annual national economy plans the supply to medical industry enterprises of needed material resources in quantities which would ensure the uninterrupted carrying out of the program of manufacturing of drugs, medical instruments, devices, and other medical articles.

The Gosstroy USSR must jointly with the Ministry of Health USSR develop and approve in 1960 samples of economical, comfortable and hygienic medical furniture, sanitary-hygienic equipment and electrical lightning fixtures for public health establishments. The Gosplan USSR was instructed to develop, jointly with Councils of Ministers of the union republics, and submit to the Council of Ministers USSR suggestions on the organization of mass production of the aforementioned furniture, fixtures and equipment and to provide this production with aluminum, plastics, and other modern materials.

The Councils of Ministers of the union republics are to ensure a wide vitaminization of food products of mass consumption: flour, refined sugar, food fats, etc.

The decree provides for the improvement of the supply of refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, washing machines and other machines and electrical home appliances to the therapeutic-prophylactic and sanitary-epidemiological institutions.

The TsK of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR decided to set aside 1,800 million rubles above the amount of capital expenditures determined by the control figures of development of the national economy of the USSR for 1959-65, for the construction in 1961-1965 of institutions of public health, medical industry enterprises, scientific-research institutes, experimental plants, pharmacies and pharmaceutical warehouses.

In connection with the fact that proper conditions have been created at the present time for further reduction and complete elimination of infectious diseases, the Councils of Ministers of the union republics have been advised, jointly with the Ministry of Health USSR and Acad. Med. Sci. USSR, to work out, taking into consideration the local conditions, and to implement measures which would ensure the elimination of diphtheria, tularemia, poliomyelitis and a number of diseases of endemic character (malaria, ankylostomosis, trachoma, etc.), as well as to achieve a drastic reduction of typhus fever morbidity, whooping cough, ascariasis, acute intestinal infections and brucellosis. In carrying out the aforementioned measures, it was advised to

enlist the participation in their implementation, besides the organs of public health, and also the organs of communal, rural economy, veterinary services, the organs of public education, and the enterprises, sovkhozes, kolkhozes, economic and public organizations and the population.

The Councils of Ministers of the republics, sovnarkhozes and the local Soviets of workers' deputies must, jointly with scientific-research and project institutes as well as trade-union organizations, develop and carry out measures on the elimination and prevention of pollution of reservoirs, soil and air in the cities and industrial centers caused by the industrial waste materials and residential refuse, canalization and sanitary cleaning of populated centers; on the further improvement of working conditions and accident prevention in the industrial enterprises, sovkhozes and kolkhozes; on ensuring a sanitary regimen in the enterprises of the food industry, public nutrition and commerce; on ensuring control of sanitary norms and conditions in planning, construction and maintenance of industrial enterprises.

The TsK of the CPSU and Council of Ministers USSR instructed the Ministry of Health USSR jointly with the Councils of Ministers of the union republics to work out suggestions on the enforcement of sanitary supervision and improvement of the work of sanitary organizations.

The TsK of the CPSU and Council of Ministers USSR instructed the Ministry of Health USSR, Academy of Sciences USSR, Acad. Med. Sci. USSR and the academies of sciences of union republics to concentrate within the next few years the attention of corresponding scientific-research organizations on the solution of the following extremely important problems of public health: search for methods and means of effective treatment and prophylaxis of influenza, tonsillitis, measles, epidemic hepatitis, intestinal infections and other diseases; development of measures for further reduction of child mortality and ensuring the health of mother and child; prevention of workers' morbidity in the new branches of industry; search for means and methods of treatment and prevention of cardiovascular diseases; detection of the etiology of cancer and other malignant tumors and the development of norms in the field of hygiene of populated places, hygiene of nutrition, occupational and school hygiene; development of basic problems of the theory of medicine (physiology, biochemistry, cytology, virology, and immunology). The Councils of Ministers of union republics are instructed to carry out necessary measures in regard to the expansion of the medico-biological departments of Academies of Sciences of the union republics.

The Councils of Ministers of the union republics, the Ministry of Health USSR and the Acad. Sci. USSR are instructed, according to the decision of the TsK of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR, to ensure considerable expansion of scientific-research and experimental-productive works for the creation of new effective medicinal means and articles of medical technique based on the utilization of modern achievements in biology, chemistry, nuclear physics, electronics, and cybernetics; strengthening of existing and creation of new construction bureaus and laboratories at the medical industry enterprises, as well as the improvement of their work on the perfection of production processes and the fastest inculcation into serial production of new types of drugs, medical apparatus, instruments and equipment.

In order to widely enlist medical workers of the therapeutic-prophylactic institutions in scientific-research work and to develop their creative initiative, it has been found expedient to establish branches of scientific medical societies in large hospital-polyclinical and sanitary-epidemiological institutions. The Ministry of Health USSR was instructed jointly with VTsSPS /All-Union Central Soviet of Trade Unions/ to work out and approve a Statute on the aforementioned branches.

In connection with the fact that the carrying out of sanitary-health measures and the improvement of public health care is unthinkable without the wide creative participation of the population, the TsK of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR approved the initiative of Party, Soviet, trade unions and komsomol organizations and the Red Cross organizations of Tul'skaya Oblast and the cities -- Crekhovo-Zuyevo, Borisov, etc., on the improvement of sanitary conditions, comfort, tree-planting of cities, villages and enterprises, with the active participation of the population, and they advised local Party and Soviet organs to expand this experience and encourage the initiative of the population in its work for healthy living conditions. It has been found necessary to enlarge the activities of permanent health committees of local soviets of workers' deputies and to enlist wide strata of the population in more active participation in this work.

In order to enlist the services of the working masses in the solution of problems of improvement of the work of medical institutions, it has been found necessary to create at the therapeutic-prophylactic and sanitary-hygienic institutions public councils consisting of medical workers and the representatives of Party, komsomol, trade-unions, economic organizations and population. The VTsSPS jointly with the Ministry of Health USSR must work out and approve a

Statute of public councils at such medical institutions.

The TsK of Communist parties and Councils of Ministers of union republics, the Ministry of Health USSR, the Ministry of Culture USSR, the State Committee of Radio Broadcasting and Television under the Council of Ministers USSR, and the Ispolkom of the Union of the Red Cross and Red Crescent USSR are instructed, by virtue of the decree of the TsK CPSU and Council of Ministers USSR, to improve the carrying out of dissemination of medical and hygienic knowledge among the population, especially among the student and working youth, by means of the utilization of movies, radio, television, the press, as well as through the publication of sanitary-educational literature and posters.

The TsK of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR pointed out that constant care of the health of people is one of the most important tasks of the Party, Soviet, komsomol, trade union and other public organizations, and they expressed confidence that the Soviet people, inspired by the historic decisions of the 21st Congress of the CPSU, will warmly support the measures for further improvement of public health in our country.

In highly evaluating the noble work of the medical workers, the TsK of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR expressed the hope that the medical profession will apply all its efforts and knowledge to every possible improvement of medical service to the population.

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The decree of the TsK of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR "On Measures for Further Improvement of Medical Service and Health Protection of the Population of the USSR" represents a striking embodiment in life of the decisions of the Supreme Soviet USSR accepted at the 4th Session.

As the result of the recent reduction of the armed forces, our people and our country will effect a sizable economy. The Soviet Government applies a considerable part of these savings to the further improvement of the well-being of the Soviet people. Not a small part of these savings, as seen from the published decree, will be utilized in the improvement of the medical service to the population.

"Pravda" of 20 January 1960

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